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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,561	09/04/2003	Yoshiaki Tanaka	10844-32US (203058 (C-2))	7840
570	7590	01/20/2006		EXAMINER
				VORTMAN, ANATOLY
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				2835

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SF

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/656,561	TANAKA, YOSHIAKI	
	Examiner Anatoly Vortman	Art Unit 2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-100 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,5 and 9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 13,17,21,25,29,33,37,41,45,49,53,57,61,65,69,73,77,81,85,89,93 and 97 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims withdrawn from consideration are:

2-4,6-8,10-12,14-16,18-20,22-24,26-28,30-32,34-36,38-40,42-44,46-48,50-52,54-56,58-60,62-64,66-68,70-72,74-76,78-80,82-84,86-88,90-92,94-96 and 98-100.

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of the Applicant's arguments presented in the "Request For Reconsideration" filed on 07/14/05 and in view of the arguments presented in the "Pre-Appeal Brief Request For Review" filed on 11/25/05 and in light of the "Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review" mailed on 12/16/05, the outstanding final rejection of claims 1, 5, 9, 37, 41, 45, 49, 77, 81, 93, and 97 is hereby withdrawn. The new non-final Office action follows:

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1, 5, and 9 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No.

10/423,780. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1, 5, and 9 of the instant application recite an alloy type thermal fuse having a thermal fuse element made of Sn-Bi-In tertiary alloy having inevitable impurities, in which Sn is larger than 25% and 60% or smaller, Bi is larger than 12% and 33% or smaller, and In is 20% or larger and smaller than 50%, wherein conflicting claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/423,780 recite an alloy type thermal fuse having a thermal fuse element made of Sn-Bi-In tertiary alloy inherently having inevitable impurities, in which Sn is larger than 25% and 40% or smaller, Bi is larger than 5% and 25% or smaller, and In is 50% or larger and smaller than 55%.

The claimed ranges as recited in claims 1, 5 and 9 are overlapping or close to the ranges as recited in claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/423,780.

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the fuse art at the time the invention was made to adjust ranges for ternary Sn-Bi-In alloy as claimed in claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/423,780 so as to arrive to the ranges for ternary Sn-Bi-In alloy as claimed in claims 5, 9 and 11, of the instant application in order to achieve desired characteristics of the fuse element, since a prima facie case of obviousness typically exists when the ranges of a claimed composition overlap the ranges disclosed in the prior art. E.g., *In re Geisler*, 116 F.3d 1465, 1469, 43 USPQ2d 1362, 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 1578, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936-37 (CCPA 1976); *In re Malagari*, 499 F.2d 1297, 1303, 182 USPQ 549, 553 (CCPA 1974).

Also, a prima facie case of obviousness typically exists when the ranges of a claimed composition do not overlap but close enough. *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 783, 227 USPQ 773, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 53, 57, 61, 65, 69, 73, 77, 81, 85, 89, 93, and 97 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
regarding claims 13, 17, 29, 33, 53, 57, 69, and 73, claims 13 and 17 recite: "Sn or Ag film";
regarding claims 21, 25, 61, and 65, claims 21 and 25 recite: "conductors have a disk-like shape";
regarding claims 85 and 89, each of the claims recites: "lead conductors are partly exposed from one face of an insulating plate to another face";
regarding claims 37 and 41, the claims recite: "metal particles and a binder";
regarding claims 45, 49, 77, and 81, the claims recite: "a heating element"; and,

regarding claims 93 and 97, the claims recite: "fuse element ...is sandwiched between insulating films".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of the respective claims, are believed to render the subject matter of said claims patentable over the art of record.

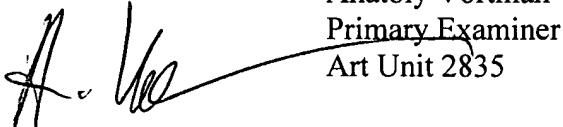
Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anatoly Vortman whose telephone number is 571-272-2047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, between 10:00 am and 6:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Lynn Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AV



Anatoly Vortman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2835